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- 1 9. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the system is further programmed
2 to perform the steps of:
3 receiving an input subsequent to the executing step; and
4 performing the determining step in response to the receiving step.
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After the claims, add the following:

A3

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an iconic programming computer system, the execution trail of objects is shown. Upon initiation by a user, the icons that have executed are highlighted so that the user, while debugging a program, can trace the path that the program has taken and identify which icons have executed.--

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the nonfinal Office Action of July 19, 1999. Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this First Response, claims 1-9 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been directly amended herein, and claims 2-9 have been newly added. Furthermore, to comply with requirements in the outstanding Office Action, the application has been amended to include an abstract of the disclosure. It is believed that the foregoing amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

Response to §103 Rejections

In order for a claim to be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, the combined teachings of the prior art references must suggest all features of the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. See, e.g., *In Re Dow Chemical*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988), and *In re Keller*, 208 U.S.P.Q.2d 871, 881 (C.C.P.A. 1981).

Furthermore, a reference “teaches away” from the claimed invention and should not be used to reject the claimed invention under §103 “when a person of ordinary skill, upon reading the reference, would be discouraged from following the path set out in the reference, or would be led in a direction divergent from the path that was taken by the applicant.” *In re Gurley*, 2 F.3d 551, 31 U.S.P.Q.2d 1130, 1131 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Claim 1

Claim 1 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as purportedly being unpatentable over *Wilson*. Claim 1, as amended, reads as follows:

1. In an iconic programming system, wherein the iconic programming system contains an existing network of connected icons, a computer-implemented method for tracing the execution of icons, the method comprising the steps of:
 - executing a plurality of the icons;
 - setting a flag for each icon executed in the executing step, the flag corresponding with the each icon; and*
 - highlighting each icon corresponding with each flag set in the setting step.* (Emphasis added.)

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wilson* fails to suggest or teach at least the features of pending claim 1 highlighted hereinabove and that *Wilson* is, therefore, inadequate to render pending claim 1 obvious.

In this regard, *Wilson* describes an iconic programming system capable of highlighting the icon being executed during execution. In *Wilson*, a trace command causes an iconic programming system to identify the icon “whose instructions are

currently being executed” and to highlight this icon. Col. 9, lines 58-60, (emphasis added). See also col. 10, lines 6-58. Therefore, *Wilson* facilitates the debugging process by enabling a programmer to locate the icon associated with the instruction or set of instructions currently being executed by the iconic programming system.

However, execution of the icons often fails at some point due to errors in the instructions of the icons. The present invention recognizes that it may be beneficial for a programmer to see which icons have and have not executed during an execution that previously failed. Therefore, the methodology of the present invention, as defined by claim 1, sets a flag for each icon executed during execution so that the icons that actually executed during the execution can be later highlighted. This is contrary to *Wilson* which teaches that only the icon currently being executed is highlighted. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that *Wilson* fails to suggest or teach each feature of pending claim 1 and asserts that the rejection to this claim should be withdrawn.

Teaches Away

Applicant further submits that the teachings of *Wilson* would discourage one skilled in the art from implementing the features of the present invention. Therefore, *Wilson* “teaches away” from the present invention and should not be used to reject the present invention under 35 U.S.C. §103.

As set forth hereinabove, *Wilson* discloses an iconic programming system capable of highlighting the icon “whose instructions are currently being executed.” Col. 9, lines 58-60. In this regard, only the executing icon is highlighted so that a programmer can quickly identify the executing icon.

However, if each icon that has been executed is highlighted, as described by pending claim 1, then it could be difficult for a programmer to determine which icon

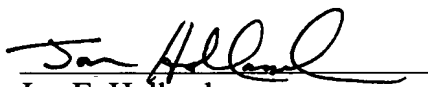
includes the instructions *currently* being executed, especially considering that an icon can be executed more than once as the iconic program branches and loops. Therefore, upon reading *Wilson*, one ordinarily skilled in the art would be discouraged from highlighting each executed icon, as described by pending claim 1, and pursuant to *In re Gurley, Wilson* should not be used to reject claim 1, as presently set forth.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted ,

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